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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Torsten LORENZ et al.

Serial No.: 09/976,265

Group Art Unit: 1771

Filed: October 15, 2001

Examiner: L. Salvatore

Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING PREFORMS FROM FIBER COMPOSITES AS
WELL AS PREFORM PRODUCED WITH THIS METHOD

REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the requirement for restriction set forth in the Office Action dated August 27, 2002 (Paper No. 7) the invention identified as invention "I" by the Examiner, defined by claims 1-14, is elected, with traverse, for prosecution on the merits.

Reconsideration of the requirement for restriction is requested. Independent product claim 15 is directed to a preform made by a process including "alternately placing" and "forming" operations which are defined identically to the "alternately placing" and "forming" operations included in the preform producing method of independent process claim 1. Dependent claims 2-14, respectively, include limitations which are identical to limitations of claims 16-28, respectively. It is respectfully submitted that the rationale provided by the Examiner for requiring restriction, i.e. that the preform may be produced by a materially different process, is inappropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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